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NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION: TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES FOR MAP AND OTHER EDITORS

Dutch Toponymic Guidelines

Submitted by the Netherlands**

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TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES FOR MAP AND OTHER EDITORS FOR INTERNATIONAL USE - THE NETHERLANDS

A. Languages

1. The Netherlands is a unilingual country, Dutch being the only nation-wide official language. The Frisian minority language has an official status in the province of Friesland only.

National language

2. The national language is Dutch in its standard form, written in the Roman script.

The Dutch alphabet

A a	H h	O o	V v
B b	I i	P p	W w
C c	J j	Q q	X x
D d	K k	R r	IJ ij (Y y)
E e	L l	S s	Z z
F f	M m	T t	
G g	N n	U u	

3. In addition to the normal alphabetical sequence, some foreign or archaic influences on geographical names have led to the incorporation of non-standard letters as Ä ä, E è, E é, Ö ö, Ü ü and Y y in some geographical names. Furthermore ä, ë, ï, ö en ü may appear in vowel clusters in Dutch words and names for marking a separate pronunciation of the vowels. In the Dutch alphabet the vowels with diacritic marks come under A, E, I, O and U respectively. Hyphens and blanks are disregarded in the alphabetical order.

The letters -i- and -j- that together form the Dutch letter ij are not separated from each other in spaced-out lettering. This applies to both capitals and lower case. In indices and dictionaries it is listed under the sequence i-j (between i-h and i-k).

Spelling rule for Dutch geographical names in the Netherlands

4. The rules given below have been in use by the three main surveying and mapping organizations: "Topographic Survey" (Topografische Dienst), the "Hydrographic Office" (Dienst der Hydrografie) and Rijkswaterstaat since 1969. To improve international exchangeability, the Hydrographic Office follows the International Charts Specification of the International Hydrographic Organization[1].

5. Geographical names are as yet not subject to the general spelling rules. They are, rather, spelled in the customary form approved by local government. However, in the following respects Dutch geographical names comply with the general

[1] Chart Specifications of the I.H.O., section 500 - Geographic Names; Lettering; Numerals, International Hydrographic Bureau, Monaco, 1980.

spelling rules for the Dutch language, except for individual cases where deviating officially approved versions occur.

Capitalization

i. Articles and prepositions at the beginning of geographical names are capitalized, unless abbreviated.
Examples: Het Loo, Den Helder, Ter Aalst. But: 't Harde, 's Gravenmoer ('t = het; 's = des).

ii. The incipients of all other disconnected name parts, with the exception of articles, prepositions and conjunctions, are capitalized.
Examples: Nederhorst den Berg, Kanaal van Terneuzen naar Gent, Millingen aan de Rijn.

iii. When names written in one word are divided, because of lack of space, the incipient of the second and following parts are not capitalized.
Example: Noordhollandsch Kanaal ->
Noord-
hollandsch
Kanaal

iv. The grapheme IJ ij is regarded as one letter, so when capitalized should be written IJ instead of Ij.
Examples: IJsselmeer, IJmuiden.

Use of one or more words and hyphenization

In principle, current Dutch orthographic practice aims at joining the parts of compound geographical names, unless ensuing excessive length would raise readability problems.
A hyphen is used when words are divided and when the meaning 'from-towards' (as for example in Amsterdam-Rijnkanaal) should be conveyed or: when a municipality name is a combination of two place names, e.g. Etten-Leur.

Name parts are not joined in the following cases:

i. When adjectives ending in -e are followed by name elements beginning with a vowel.
Example: Kleine Es, Oude IJssel

ii. When one of the parts of a compound name is an article.
Example: Den Helder, De Zilk, Het Loo.

iii. With ordinals or superlatives.
Examples: Eerste Valthermond, Achterste Diep.

iv. With suffixed adjectives or directional words.
Example: Amsterdam Zuid

v. With conjunctions and prepositions that connect name parts.
Examples: Bergen op Zoom, Val van Urk.

vi. With proper names and numerals preceded by designations denoting the kind of geographical object.
Examples: Ambt Delden, Boswachterij Schoorl, Fort Rammekens, Sluis Drie.

vii. With derivatives of compass directions ending in -elijk or -elijke.

Example: Westelijk Kanaal.

viii. When the first part of a compound is a personal name written in two words.
Examples: Anna Jacobapolder, Sint Annaland.

ix. With geographical uninflected adjectives ending in -s(ch) or -isch.
Examples: Belgisch Limburg, Zeeuws Vlaanderen.

x. With weak past participles.
Example: Verlengde Hoogeveensevaart.

At present this orthographic practice is not yet universally accepted throughout the Netherlands, and deviations occur frequently, sanctioned by official, customary use.

Examples of deviations of spelling rules are:
In province names with non-inflected compass directions, these are joined by hyphen.
Examples: Zuid-Holland, Noord-Brabant

ad i: Non-geographical adjectives in most cases are joined by hyphen to the proper nouns in toponyms
Examples: Nieuw-Buinen, Oud-Zuilen. But: Blauwe Sluis, Oude Rijn.

ad ii: Abbreviated articles are usually joined by hyphen to the specifics in toponyms.
Examples: 's-Gravenhage, 's-Hertogenbosch.

ad viii: But: Sint-Michielsgestel, Sint-Oedenrode.

ad ix. Often also inflected adjectives of this class are not joined to the proper nouns in toponyms.
Examples: Delftsche Schie, Groenlosche Slinge.

Pronunciation of Dutch geographical names

6. Accents in Dutch geographical names fall on the first syllable, generally.

Pronunciation key

7. The pronunciation of consonants in Dutch does not differ markedly from that in English with a few exceptions. In the following tables, free pronunciation variants are separated by a period. Positional variants are separated by 'or'.:

spelling	pronunciation IPA alphabet	other remarks
g	[γ]	before vowels
g	[X]	before consonants and at word end
ch	[X]	
sch	[sX]	at word end : [s]
p;t;k	[p];[t];[k]	unaspirated
r	[r],[R]	
w	[υ]	

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The pronunciation of vowels differs considerably from that in English. A short outline of the pronunciation is given below. '+OS' means: in open syllable, e.g. the a in dagen; '+CS' means : in closed syllable, e.g. the a in dag, bakken. For reasons of font constraints, the open back vowel a is shown by å; the mid-open rounded back vowel o is shown by ò:

spelling	pronunciation IPA alphabet	spelling	pronunciation IPA alphabet
a+CS	[å]	uu,u+OS	[y:] or [y]
aa,a+OS	[a:]	au,ou	[åo]
e+CS	[ɛ]	ei,ij	[ɛɪ]
ee,e+CS	[eˈ]	eu	[œø]
i	[I]	ie,y	[i]
o+CS	[o]	oe	[u]
oo,o+OS	[oᵘ]	ui	[Ʌø]
u+CS	[Y]		

The use of dialect

8. Only dialect spellings codified before the general acceptance of the Dutch standard language are recognized. All other dialect names are converted into the standard language.

Regional language

9. Frisian is a Germanic language akin to Dutch and English. It is spoken by about 400,000 inhabitants of the province of Friesland, used and taught officially in educational and religious institutions and in local and provincial government. It is written in the Roman script. Figure 1 shows the area with a majority of Frisian-speaking inhabitants.

The Frisian alphabet

10.

A a	G g	M m	T t
B b	H h	N n	U u
(C) c	I i, Y y	O o	(V) v
D d	J j	P p	W w
E e	K k	R r	(Z) z
F f	L l	S s	

11. In addition to the normal alphabetical sequence in the Frisian alphabet, the letters A â, E ê, O ô, U û and U ú occur. In the Frisian alphabet they come under A, E, O and U respectively. Y y is a positional variant of I i and comes under I i in the alphabet. c only appears in the combination ch and as such never at the beginning of a word. C, V and Z may at the beginning of a word only occur in proper names that are part of a toponym, e.g. Vosseloane.

Spelling rules for the Frisian geographical names in the Netherlands

12. The non-phonological spelling rules are the same as for Dutch. The phonological spelling rules of geographical names comply with the general spelling rules for Frisian. However due to the spelling change of 1980, a lot of deviating spellings occur.

Pronunciation of the Frisian alphabet

13. The pronunciation of consonants in Frisian does not differ markedly from that in English and Dutch with a few exceptions:

spelling	pronunciation IPA alphabet	other remarks
g	[g]	at word begin
g	[γ]	between vowels
ch	[X]	
p;t;k	[p];[t];[k]	unaspirated
r	[r]	mute before d,t,s,n,l
w	[ʊ],[v]	

The pronunciation of vowels is quite different from both the English and Dutch pronunciation:

spelling	pronunciation IPA alphabet	spelling	pronunciation IPA alphabet
a+CS	[a] or [ɔ] before d,t,s,n,l	û	[u] or [u:]
aa,a+OS	[a:]	au,ou	[ɔo]
e+CS	[ɛ]	ea	[I˙ə] or [jɛ]
ee,e+CS	[e^{i}]	ei	[ɛI],[aI],[ɔI]
i+CS	[e]	eo	[ø˙ə]
ii,i+OS	[i] or [i:]	eu	[œø]
o+CS	[o] or [ɔ]	ie	[i˙ə] or [jI]
oo,o+CS	[o^{u}]	ij	[ɛI]
u+CS	[Y]	oa	[o˙ə] or [wa]
ú,u+OS	[y] or [y:]	oe	[u˙ə]
y	[i]	ue	[y˙ə] or [jY]
â,ô	[ɔ:]	ui	[əø]
ê	[ɛ:]	uo	[wo]

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Frisian geographical names

14. The present situation can be considered as a transitional stage in respect to the use of Frisian toponyms on official documents. This leads to a somewhat fuzzy situation. In several municipalities in Friesland, street names are, completely or partially, officially spelled in Frisian. Some municipalities bear Frisian names. The province officially has a bilingual name, just as a lot of villages and towns. Additionally, two municipalities have officially spelled the names of their villages and towns unilingual in Frisian. This local usage is also reflected on the sign posts and road maps.

Street names and names of (farm)houses and other buildings are rendered in the way they appear on the object, hence Frisian if the name is given in that language. Major objects, like field names, municipalities, water bodies, may be in Frisian, unless an official document gives a Dutch version. In practice, this may lead to strange mixtures on the map. The unilingual Frisian place names are given in Frisian, with the Dutch version added in brackets. For places that bear a double name, only the Dutch versions are shown on the maps, except for some small hamlets.

B. Names authorities and names standardization

15. In 1947 the Netherlands government delegated the task to compile a standardized list of geographical names to the joint Netherlands-Belgian Orthographic Committee (Nederlands-Belgische Woordenlijst Commissie). The Netherlands delegation in this committee started work in 1962 and finished its endeavour in 1973 when a list with proposed standardized spellings for about 40,000 toponyms was presented to the Minister for Education for official endorsement, which has not been authorized yet. The Netherlands delegation to the joint Netherlands-Belgian Orthographic Committee has in itself no official authority to implement the orthography for geographical names. The committee is not active at the moment. The list can be obtained at the P.J. Meertens Institute, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences[2].

16. In its list the committee also covered the Dutch versions of geographical names in the province of Friesland. Frisian versions of geographical names in Friesland have been standardized at the request of the Frisian provincial government by the Toponymic Working Group of the Frisian Academy[3]. A list with all toponyms in the province of Friesland, that occur on the map at the scale of 1:100 000, in their correct Frisian spelling was published in 1982. In cooperation of several organisations, among others the Frisian Academy, a bilingual map on the scale 1:100 000, "Kaart van Friesland/Kaart fan Fryslân", is issued. At the moment a new edition is prepared and may be published within a couple of months.

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[2] P.J.Meertensinstituut, Keizersgracht 569-571, 1017 DR Amsterdam.

[3] Nammejouwingskommisje, Fryske Akademy, Doelestrjitte 8, 8911 DX Ljouwert.

17. Until the Minister for Education sees fit to officially endorse these name lists, the Topographic Survey and the Hydrographic Office will continue to present on their maps the customary spellings used in local government and official acts.

C. Source material

Maps

18. Topographic maps at the scale of 1:25 000, published every four to eight years by the Topographic Survey[4]. See figure 2 for index sheet of this map series.

Netherlands Small Crafts charts, published annually at scales between 1:20 000 and 1:150 000 by the Hydrographic Office[5].

Gazetteers

19. The Topographic Survey offers two databases of geographical names, which can be purchased in digital form. Databases are available based on the 1:250 000 maps:

Lijst van geografische namen voorkomend op de overzichtskaarten van Nederland 1:250 000 , Emmen, 1990.

and the 1:50 000 maps:

Lijst van geografische namen voorkomend op de topografische kaart 1:50 000 Emmen, 1988.

The most extensive overview of topographic names are the indexes of the provincial topographic atlases, that are composed of the 1:25 000 maps of the Topographic Survey:

Grote Provincie Atlas 1:25 000
Wolters-Noordhoff, Groningen, 1987-1991.

For every province but 'Flevoland', volumes have been issued.

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[4] Topografische Dienst, Bendienplein 5, Postbus 115, 7800 AC Emmen.

[5] Hydrografische Dienst, Postbus 90704, 2509 LS Den Haag.

D. Glossary of appellatives, adjectives and other words necessary for the understanding of maps

Dutch language words

20.(based on glossaries on the pre 1980 and post 1980 editions of the military topographic maps 1:50 000, and appellatives/designations of the post 1980 1:25 000 series)

Aardgasstation	natural gas pumping station
Aardgaswinning	natural gas field
Automobielfabriek	motor car factory
Baan	way, road
Beek	brook
Bejaardencentrum	old people's home
Berg	hill
Bootdienst	ferry to....
Brouwerij	brewery
Chemische fabriek	chemical works
Conservenfabriek	cannery
Eendenkooi	duck decoy
Elektriciteitscentrale	power station
Fabriek	factory
Gasbedrijf	gas works
Gemaal	pumping-station
Gevangenis	prison
Goederenspoorweg	freight train track
Golfbaan	golf course
Graansilo	(grain) elevator
Hangar	hangar
Haven	harbour
Heide	heath
Helihaven	heliport
Helling	slipway
Hoeve	farm
Hoogovens en staalfabrieken	blast-furnace and steel-works
Hoogspanningsleiding	power line
Houtzagerij	saw-mill
Hulpsekretarie	town clerk's branch office
In aanleg	under construction
Industrieterrein	industrial area
Jachthaven	marina
Jeugdherberg	youth hostel
Kabelfabriek	cable-works
Kalkovens	lime-kiln
Kanaal	canal
Kapel	chapel
Kindertehuis	children's home
Klooster	monastery
Koelhuis	cold storage building

Kunstijsbaan	skating rink
Laan	avenue
Loop	watercourse
Machinefabriek	engineering-works
Meer	lake
Metro	underground station
Meubelfabriek	furniture factory
Molen	mill (windmill, watermill)
Natuurreservaat	nature reserve
Olieraffinaderij	oil refinery
Papierfabriek	paper-mill
Peil	water level
Plas	lake
Pompstation	pumping-station
Pontveer	ferry
Recreatiegebied	recreation-area
Recreatieoord	recreation-site
Reddingsboot	life boat
Remise	tramway depot
Renbaan	racecourse
Reservaat	nature reserve
Ruïne	ruins
Schouwburg	theater
Slikken	mud-flats
Sodafabriek	soda-works
Sportterrein)	
Sportpark)	sportsfield
Sportvelden)	
Spuisluis	sluice
Stadion	stadium
Steenfabriek	brick-works
Suikerfabriek	sugar-mill
Straat	street
Stuw	weir
Toren	tower
Uitzichttoren	observation-tower
Vaart	canal
Veen	peat
Veerhuis	ferry-house
Verpleeghuis	nursing-home
Vliegveld	aerodrome
Vloeivelden	sewage-farm
Voorm. fort	former fortification
Vuilverbrandingsinstallatie	refuse incinerator
Waterleidingbedrijf	Waterworks
Watertoren	water-tower
Weg	street
Werf	shipyard

Wetering	watercourse
Winkelcentrum	shopping-centre
Winterpeil	winter level
Woonwagencentrum	caravan-camp
IJsbaan	skating rink
IJsstadion	skating stadium
Ziekenhuis	hospital
Zomerpeil	summer level
Zuivelfabriek	dairy factory
Zuiveringsinstallatie	purification plant
Zweefvliegtuigen	glider air field
Zwembad	swimming pool

E. Abbreviations used in the official topographic maps of the Netherlands

21.(based on lists on pre 1980 and post 1980 military editions of topographic maps 1:50 000)

Br	brug	bridge	P	Parkeerplaats	Parking site
Bask br	baskuulbrug	bascule bridge	PK	Protestante kerk	Protestant church
Begr pl	begraafplaats	cemetery			
Dr br	draaibrug	swing-bridge	Pl	paal	pole
Fabr	fabriek	factory	RD	Rijksdrie-hoeksmeting	state survey
Gd	grondduiker	culvert siphon			
Gem	gemeente	municipality	RK	Rooms-Katho-lieke kerk	Roman Catho-lic church
Gem huis	gemeentehuis	municipality town hall, municipality hall	Sch sl	schutsluis	lock
			Trafo	Transformator	transformer
			Statn	station	station
Gp	grenspaal	boundary post	Vbr	voetbrug	footbridge
Hp	hoekpunt-paal	triangulation point	Wm	watermolen	water-mill
			Wt	watertoren	water-tower
Inr	inrichting	institution			
Km	korenmolen	corn mill			
Oph br	ophaalbrug	draw bridge			

Note: Designations and abbreviations are indicated in a different type face on the Netherlands topographic map series at the scale of 1 : 25 000 and 1 : 50 000.

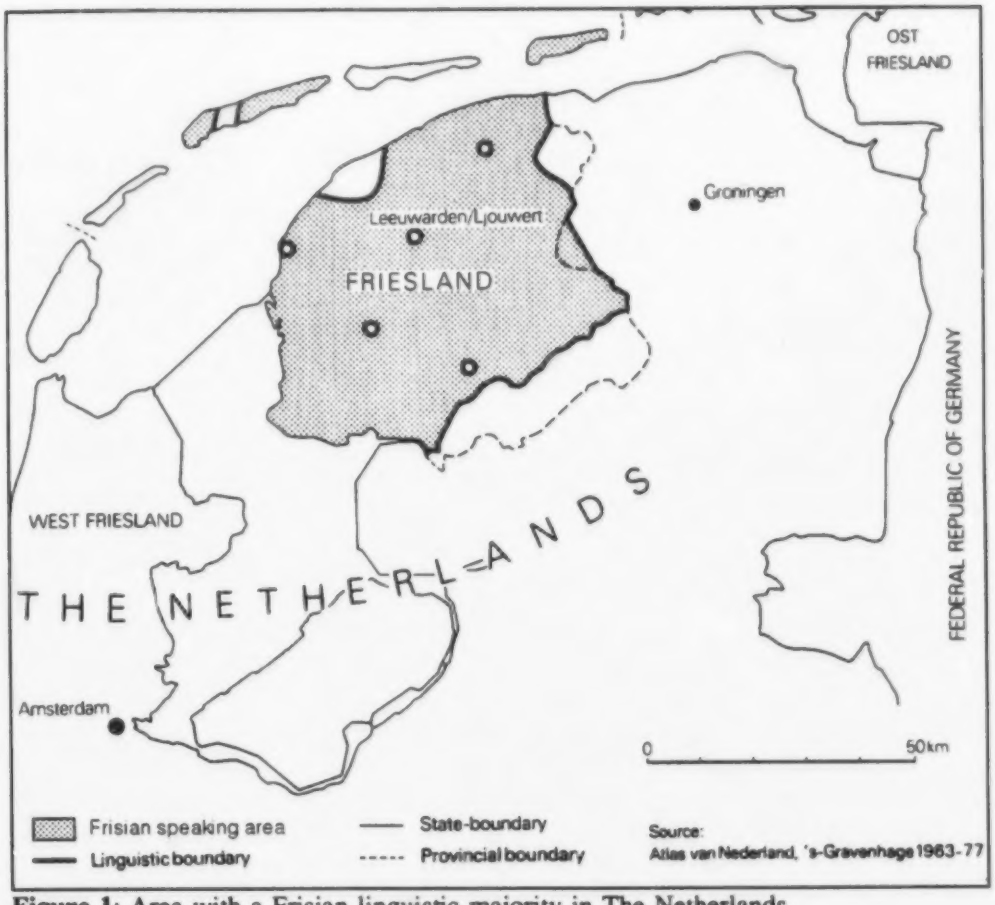

Figure 1: Area with a Frisian linguistic majority in The Netherlands.

Figure 2: Sheet index of the Netherlands Topographic map series 1 : 25 000.

Updated by drs.A.P.Versloot
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